

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2008

USEEC FOR EC BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU
SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA

REF: (A) STATE 180323, (B) NICOSIA 1980 (NOTAL)

1. THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO PARA TWO, REF A, ASKING FOR ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE TURKISH CYPRIOT PREPARATIONS FOR ACTUAL RESETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION WITH TURKISH OR TURKISH CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES BUT EXPECT TO IN NEXT TWO TO THREE DAYS.

2. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TOOK PLACE AUG 2. "TFSC PRESIDENT" DENKTASH, TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON, CHIEF OF STAFF TURKISH FORCES CYPRUS, AND OTHERS MET AT OFFICE OF "FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER" CHELIK. FROM SECONDHAND SOURCE WE UNDERSTAND TURKISH EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED MEETING WAS TO DIS-CONFIDENTIAL

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CUSS PREPARATIONS FOR POSSIBLE RESETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA AND THAT ENTIRE EFFORT IS AT THE INITIATIVE OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS. TURKISH EMBOFF WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ACTUAL RESETTLEMENT PROCEEDING SOON AND IMPLEMENTATION WOULD NOT OCCUR WITHOUT EXPLICIT CONSENT OF ANKARA.

3. OUR EVALUATION IS THAT TURK CYPRIOTS HAVE SEIZED OPPORTUNITY

CREATED BY ECEVIT'S JULY 20 SPEECH TO TRY TO FORCE RESETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA AS ANOTHER "POLITICAL REALITY" DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE TO GREEK CYPRIOTS THAT A DELAY IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT WILL ONLY MEAN LESS FAVORABLE TERMS FOR GREEK CYPRIOTS AND THAT TURK CYPRIOTS WILL PUSH FOR CONCRETE PLANS AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION. WE BELIEVE GOT WILL NOT ALLOW TURK CYPRIOTS TO PROCEED PAST PLANNING STAGE WITHOUT GOT CONCURRENCE, AND WE HAVE RECEIVED NO INDICATION TURKISH AUTHORITIES HERE VIEW SITUATION IN SAME LIGHT AS TURK CYPRIOTS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT AREA IN QUESTION IS PHYSICALLY CONTROLLED BY THE TURKISH MILITARY, AND ALL CIVILIANS ARE EFFECTIVELY KEPT OUT OF THE AREA. ALSO, THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL CHANGE ON THE GROUND. DESPITE ONHON STATEMENT REPORTED REF B, A DIPLOMATIC VISITOR TO FAMAGUSTA REPORTED THAT ON JULY 30 HE COULD NOT APPROACH THE CONSTANTIA HOTEL BECAUSE TURKISH NAVAL CHECKPOINT HAD NOT BEEN MOVED.

4. IN SUM, WE FEEL THAT TURK CYPRIOTS ARE BEING ALLOWED TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR RESETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA BUT SEE NO SIGN THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ACTION ON THESE PLANS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DILLERY

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